



**Agenda Item 1:** K. Ackerman stated this meeting will follow the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and a copy of the Act is provided electronically, via a link on the final agenda posted on the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems' (NPERS) website, on the Attorney General's website, and a copy of the Act is located on the table by the door.

**Agenda Items 2 and 3 – Meeting Called to Order:** K. Ackerman called the May 15, 2023, Board Meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Present at meeting: K. Ackerman, J. Elliott, G. Clausen, M. Jahnke, J. Schulz, A. Simpson, and T. Zimmerman. Absent: M. Walden-Newman.

**Agenda Item 4 – Approval of Minutes:** J. Schulz moved for approval of the minutes of the April 17, 2023, Board Meeting. Motion was seconded by M. Jahnke. Members voted as follows: For: K. Ackerman, G. Clausen, M. Jahnke, J. Schulz, A. Simpson, and T. Zimmerman. Abstain: J. Elliott. Against: None. Motion carried.

**Excuse Board Member:** A. Simpson moved to excuse M. Walden-Newman. Motion was seconded by J. Elliott. Members voted as follows: For: K. Ackerman, J. Elliott, G. Clausen, M. Jahnke, A. Simpson, J. Schulz, and T. Zimmerman. Against: None. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item 5 – Approval of Budget Status Report & April Retirement Report:** J. Elliott moved to approve the Budget Status Report and the April 2023 Retirement Report. Motion was seconded by T. Zimmerman. Members voted as follows: For: K. Ackerman, J. Elliott, G. Clausen, M. Jahnke, A. Simpson, J. Schulz, and T. Zimmerman. Against: None. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item 6 – Public Comments or Correspondence from Citizens:** T. Cummings introduced T. Wuestewald to the PERB. T. Wuestewald was hired as the Retirement Specialist II for the Omaha School Employees' Retirement System (OSERS) department for NPERS in November 2022.

On behalf of the PERB, K. Ackerman recognized R. Gerke for his service, leadership, and accomplishments as the NPERS' Director and presented him with an Admiralship.

J. Elliott read a draft resolution regarding R. Gerke's service as Director that will be submitted to the National Council on Teacher Retirement (NCTR).

**Agenda Item 7 – State and County Actuarial Valuation and Equal Retirement Benefit Fund (ERBF) Reports:** B. Banister and P. Beckham, Cavanaugh Macdonald, gave the State and County Actuarial Valuation and ERBF reports.

B. Banister discussed a few important factors which impacted the valuation report including the phase-in of the economic assumption changes, the investment return for 2022, the dividend granted in 2022, and the actual versus assumed interest credit rate.

He stated the total number of members in the State ERBF fell from 369 members as of January 1, 2022, to 297 members as of January 1, 2023. For the County ERBF, membership fell from 105 members as of January 1, 2022, to 92 members as of January 1, 2023. There

are no required contributions for the State ERBF. Banner County is the only county with an additional required contribution to the County ERBF totaling \$199.

P. Beckham stated the funded ratio based on the actuarial value was 100.2% for the State plan and 100.9% for the County plan. The funded ratio based on the market value was 94.8% for the State plan and 94.4% for the County plan.

She stated there are no additional contributions needed from the State for either the State or County plans.

She discussed the statutory requirements and Board policies for issuing a dividend for the State and County Cash Balance plans. She stated the plans did not meet the parameters to issue a dividend this year.

J. Schulz moved to approve the State and County Valuation and ERBF Reports. Motion was seconded by M. Jahnke. Members voted as follows: For: K. Ackerman, J. Elliott, G. Clausen, M. Jahnke, A. Simpson, J. Schulz, and T. Zimmerman. Against: None. Motion carried.

The PERB took a break from 10:23 a.m. to 10:35 a.m.

**Agenda Item 8 – OSERS Transfer Project:** J. Deshpande provided an update on the OSERS Transfer Project. He stated there are 65 total solution requirements in which 10 have been documented and 134 total implementation service requirements in which 4 have been documented.

He mentioned there were several deliverable expectation documents that were submitted in April 2023 along with the creation of masked databases for NeuOrbis to use.

He stated NPERS has made a decision to move forward with the Secretary of State's (SoS) office to conduct the digitization of the OSERS paper documents. He discussed the estimates that were provided by the SoS's office and provided an estimated start date of June 1, 2023, for this project.

J. Elliott moved to approve the OSERS Transfer Project Report. Motion was seconded by T. Zimmerman. Members voted as follows: For: J. Elliott, K. Ackerman, G. Clausen, M. Jahnke, A. Simpson, J. Schulz, and T. Zimmerman. Against: None. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item 9 – Legal/Legislative Update:** O. Hill gave the Legal/Legislative Update.

He stated Legislative Bill (LB) 103 was signed into law and NPERS is currently working on updating documents that were impacted by this new law.

He discussed LB 196 which deals with benefit enhancements and contribution changes to the State Patrol plan.

He stated LB 198, which covers the return-to-work rules for the School plan, was moved to General File with a proposed amendment that incorporates provisions of LB 378. LB 378 defines the immigration eligibility for the plans covered by NPERs.

He mentioned LB 814 is the appropriations bill that had funding included for IT upgrades.

R. Gerke mentioned the funding for IT upgrades would be available beginning July 1, 2023, if the proposed budget is approved by the Governor.

T. Zimmerman moved to approve the Legal/Legislative Update. Motion was seconded by M. Jahnke. Members voted as follows: For: K. Ackerman, J. Elliott, G. Clausen, M. Jahnke, A. Simpson, J. Schulz, and T. Zimmerman. Against: None. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item 10 – Director’s Report:** R. Gerke gave the Director’s Report.

- He stated he and V. Hohlen attended the Nebraska Association of School Business Officials conference on April 20, 2023, to provide education about the School plan.
- He and J. Hayes met on May 2, 2023, to discuss items related to the director transition.
- He mentioned there are only four in-person seminars and three webinars remaining for the School plan. He stated the in-person seminars have had strong attendance numbers while the webinars seem to attract less attendees.
- There will be four in-person employer reporting workshops that are scheduled for this year. The employer reporting webinars seem to have stronger attendance compared to the in-person workshops.
- He discussed that the refunds team is working overtime to catch up on processing refunds.
- He mentioned a request for proposal will likely be needed to contract with a death auditing service as the contract with PBI Research Services will expire at the end of the calendar year.
- The State, County, and Deferred Compensation plans Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) audit has begun. On May 23, 2023, the entrance meeting for the audit will take place with the APA.
- He stated he attended a graduation for the State’s Leadership Certificate on April 27, 2023, for two graduates: T. Cummings and J. Lang.
- An IT Developer and a Data Services Office Specialist position has been filled. The following positions are still open: two Retirement Specialist I’s for the OSERS department, one Retirement Specialist I position for Member Services, a SOS Receptionist, and an Auditor.

M. Jahnke moved to approve the Director’s Report. Motion was seconded by A. Simpson. Members voted as follows: For: K. Ackerman, J. Elliott, G. Clausen, M. Jahnke, A. Simpson, J. Schulz, and T. Zimmerman. Against: None. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item 11 – NPERS Director Search Update:** A. Simpson moved to approve the Offer of Employment agreement with J. Hayes as the new NPERS Director effective June 20, 2023, with a 12-month gross annual base salary of \$195,000 which is equivalent to \$93.750 per hour for 2,080 hours of service. Motion was seconded by G. Clausen. Members voted as follows: For: K. Ackerman, J. Elliott, G. Clausen, M. Jahnke, A. Simpson, J. Schulz, and T. Zimmerman. Against: None. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item 12 – Board Committee Reports:** There were none.

**Agenda Item 13 – Board Education/Travel Requests:** There were none.

**Agenda Item 14 – Future Meetings/Agendas:** The next PERB meeting is June 26, 2023.

**Agenda Items 15 and 16 – Executive Session:** At 11:26 a.m., M. Jahnke moved that the Board exit Regular Session and convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing applications of plan members, personnel matters, and legal matters. Motion was seconded by J. Elliott. K. Ackerman repeated the motion for the record. Members voted as follows: For: K. Ackerman, J. Elliott, G. Clausen, M. Jahnke, A. Simpson, J. Schulz, and T. Zimmerman. Against: None. Motion carried.

At 12:46 p.m., M. Jahnke moved the Board exit Executive Session and reconvene in Regular Session. Motion was seconded by T. Zimmerman. Members voted as follows: For: K. Ackerman, J. Elliott, G. Clausen, M. Jahnke, A. Simpson, J. Schulz, and T. Zimmerman. Against: None. Motion carried.

A. Simpson moved to approve R. Gerke's letter to the PERB to change his retirement date as NPERS Director from June 2, 2023, to June 18, 2023, with the approval of his rate at \$93.750 per hour starting June 3, 2023. This is due to the new NPERS Director starting employment on June 20, 2023. Motion was seconded by J. Elliott. Members voted as follows: For: K. Ackerman, J. Elliott, G. Clausen, M. Jahnke, A. Simpson, J. Schulz, and T. Zimmerman. Against: None. Motion carried.

**Adjournment:** G. Clausen moved that the meeting adjourn. Motion was seconded by M. Jahnke. Members voted as follows: For: K. Ackerman, J. Elliott, G. Clausen, M. Jahnke, A. Simpson, J. Schulz, and T. Zimmerman. Against: None. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.



Randy Gerke  
Director